

Policy on Naming Buildings

Health and Human Services (HHS) policy is based on:

1. **Public Buildings Act of 1949, §410**
GSA authority to name buildings
2. **5 U.S.C. 301**
HHS Secretary's authority to name HHS buildings
3. **Promulgated authority for HHS Secretary**

HHS General Administration Manual, Ch. 24-06, §24-06-50

HHS Facilities Engineering Construction Manual, Ch. 12-20, §12-20-20 and Ch. 12-70, §12-70-60

General questions and answers (Q&A)

Q: May IHS name a facility after a living person?

A: HHS prefers not to. Requires an act of Congress.

Q: May IHS name a facility after a deceased person?

A: HHS will consider for "very exceptional cases."

Q: May IHS name a facility after something other than a person?

A: If name is "in keeping with Tribal traditions and customs."

1. the expressed desire of the "**applicable steering committee.**" We will seek clarification on the definition of "applicable steering committee."
2. "concurring with the local communities, organizations and **appropriate Tribal authorities and/or representatives.**"
 - a) If the facility's service population includes more than one tribe, IHS requires a **Tribal resolution from all Tribes in the service population**

We will seek clarification and determine the specific definition of "all Tribes" (e.g., all California Tribes, Northern Tribes, Southern Tribes?)

IHS approval process

1. IHS requires that the CAO Area Director must concur with the Tribal desire
2. CAO must submit a formal request to IHS Headquarters to name the YRTC
3. IHS will determine if the proposed name is:
 - a) consistent with HHS Policy
 - b) selected in a manner that was in compliance with HHS Policy